settlement. The settlements are enabling government entities throughout the country to adopt tailored, community-focused approaches to youth vaping and addiction prevention, education, and cessation treatments. Below are examples of how the government entity settlement is funding solutions to the public health youth e-cigarette crisis.

A. **Bellwether Government Entity Plaintiffs**

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1. San Francisco Unified School District, California

Bellwether Plaintiff San Francisco Unified School District ("SFUSD") developed a plan for settlement proceeds that will support student health for years to come. Pursuant to that plan, the settlement funds are being used to address student tobacco/vaping education and related student

health issues, which may include student mental, emotional, and social health. This includes working with community partners to provide on campus resources and access to community programs, implementing classroom-based education enabling students to make healthy choices, continuing health education at 13 middle schools, and funding wellness staff at 17 high schools.

For the current school year, SFUSD has used settlement proceeds to fund a total of 73 positions at middle and high schools. The proceeds have, thus far, been primarily used to fund school counselors and nurses and community health outreach workers (CHOW) at high school and middle school wellness centers. Anti-vaping programs supported by CHOWs include SFUSD's Youth Outreach Workers, a program where SFUSD students raise awareness on health issues impacting students and seek to educate their peers on those issues. With support from CHOWs, SFUSD's Youth Outreach Workers hosted an Anti-Vaping and Anti-Tobacco Week. In addition, settlement proceeds have been used to fund three central office positions, two in the Office of Equity, and one in the Student & Family Services Division for a total of 76 positions.

2. King County, Washington

Bellwether King County, Washington ("King County") is dedicating settlement resources to addressing harms related to the vaping epidemic. King County's Public Health – Seattle & King County Cannabis, Commercial Tobacco, and Vapor Prevention Program (CCTV) is working on using the funding over ten or more years to make significant and sustainable changes in the landscape of nicotine and vapor product use. To support these goals, King County is adopting a comprehensive approach to combating nicotine use.

In 2025 King County's CCTV added an additional 15 community organizations to their Community Change Prevention Grant portfolio. These Grants provide funding and technical assistance to community organizations for two to four years to address risk and protective factors affecting nicotine and cannabis use and cessation. These grants elevate youth leadership and community expertise. As a result, King County has been able to reach new partners, such as organizations who serve East African and refugee communities. Before the settlement, King County was able to fund less than half of the applicants, including many that the review team scored highly. In 2025, the settlement monies allowed CCTV to hire and onboard three new program and

operations managers to facilitate the increased grantee workload and to manage the larger community assessment project already underway.

To identify and enhance additional strategies, King County is conducting robust assessment and community engagement that should conclude in mid-2026. As part of this work, settlement funds will support robust surveillance assessment of youth nicotine use and enable dedication of resources to invest to address the needs and leverage the resources that assessment work identifies. King County has been making progress on multiple workstreams.

Assessment infrastructure

Since receiving the first installments of settlement funds, King County identified epidemiological and social research scientist support for the assessment, hired an assessment project manager, and developed an agreement from the Washington State Cancer Prevention Research fund to match up to \$500,000 in funds to expand assessment work and reserve settlement funds for implementation. In 2025 King County recruited a Community Advisory Board (CAB) consisting of 12 members connected to a variety of communities and sectors. The CAB met four times in 2025 and will continue to meet regularly in 2026 to help advise the assessment project and decisions made around longer-term investment strategies. Upcoming in 2026, there will be community forums scheduled to add more community input to the strategy selection process.

Analysis of existing data

In 2025 King County analyzed data from the Young Adult Health Survey, Healthy Youth Survey, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, and Quitline data. Findings from these data sources are being shared with the CAB and will be shared in upcoming community forums to help provide a basis for investment strategy decisions to be made later in 2026.

Community listening and data collection

The County completed eight youth listening sessions and is currently analyzing the qualitative data collected. The County is also halfway through 22 cessation interviews that are being conducted via a network of community navigators. The County also has contracted with the Center for the Study of Health & Risk Behaviors at the University of Washington School of Medicine to conduct listening sessions with young adults ages 18-29 and these sessions will get underway in

the coming weeks. King County's CCTV will then analyze these sessions, present the findings to the CAB and community forums to help gather input in the selection of prevention strategies that will begin to change the landscape of nicotine and vapor product use.

3. <u>Tucson Unified School District, Arizona</u>

Bellwether Plaintiff Tucson Unified School District ("TUSD") has been continuing the work of the Task Force it formed shortly after the settlement. The Addiction Reduction Task Force, led by School Board President and community family physician Dr. Ravi Shah, is made up of experts in the community on addiction medicine, harm reduction, and prevention strategies, along with district leadership. The Addiction Reduction Task Force is charged with presenting to the TUSD Board evidence-based recommendations and best practices to support students with and at risk for addiction and related health issues and make recommendations on best uses of the settlement proceeds.

In the 2024- 2025 school year, TUSD hired a Program Manager, Program Coordinator, and five Community Health Workers to be placed at sites regionally. In July of 2025 the initiative was moved into student relations under the leadership of Anna Warmbrand, the Director of Student Relations. An implementation plan was developed and submitted to the school board on November 18, 2025. The following is the implementation plan for the reminder of the 2025-2026 school year and the school year 2026-2027: A tiered implementation plan was approved by the School Board which included Tier 1 prevention supports for students and intervention supports for Tier 2 and Tier 3 students. The district will utilize the curriculum purchased from Character Strong for Tier 1 and curriculum purchased from Thrive/Elevate for Tier 2 and 3. Counselors and support staff will be paid stipends to work with students needing Tier 2 interventions and the Community Health Workers will serve Tier 3 students who have had more than 10 days of exclusion due to substance abuse. The Student Relations department will continue to work with a community coalition and manage agreements with community partners to support students in TUSD with substance abuse and misuse.¹

¹ See also https://www.kold.com/2023/11/22/task-force-aims-allocate-tusds-7-million-juul-settlement-funds/ and https://tucson.com/news/local/education/precollegiate/article_36cf9c1c-d47c-11ee-bdb8-37355d005ced.html.

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4. <u>City of Rochester, New Hampshire</u>

Bellwether Plaintiff City of Rochester, New Hampshire ("Rochester"), which served as both a municipal and a school bellwether, is continuing to use and/or ear-mark funds to combat youth vaping in its schools and community in the following ways:

- Engaging a substance-use prevention speaker to present at the middle schools, high school, and the alternative pathways education center to support the prevention of youth vaping;
- Funding for evidence-based online courses that address student substance misuse and other behavior issues. Modules cover alcohol, cannabis, prescription drugs, and hazing, using interactive lessons and personalized feedback to promote real behavior change. Beyond substance misuse, the program also addresses peer pressure, hazing, and other negative behaviors, making it a versatile tool for prevention and response to youth vaping;
- Development of a peer leadership program for at-risk students at the middle school engaging students toward positive and healthy decision-making;
- The installation of security cameras on school property at all of their school campuses, including six elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, the technology center, and an alternative pathways education center. This allows Rochester to monitor areas historically used for youth to vape;
- Installation of vape detectors at the high school that alert school staff to the use of vaping products;
- Provision of two-way radios at all school campuses that allow staff to communicate directly with the Rochester Police Department;
- Hiring a Director of Positive Youth and a Family and Community Engagement
 Director, both of whom directly interact with youth on various aspects of emotional
 well-being, including combatting vaping;
- Development of age-appropriate curricula for grades K-12 that build skills in violence prevention, body safety, healthy relationships, consent, and more. Research

shows exposure to childhood trauma, including violence, places students at higher risk for substance misuse and mental-health challenges; so, these prevention programs support broader goals including reducing substance misuse such as vaping;

- Supporting the Mental Health Awareness Club at Rochester high school that fosters
 open communication and a support system for at-risk students, including through a
 stipend for the staff advisor; and
- Renovation of student recreation areas, including athletic fields, to support proactive student engagement in positive and pro-social activities shown to improve students' mental health, academic performance, and overall well-being.

5. Palm Beach County Schools, Florida

Bellwether Plaintiff Palm Beach County Schools is committed to a comprehensive and proactive approach to preventing and addressing substance use among students. PBCS has adopted the CDC's "Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child" model recommended by Plaintiffs' abatement expert Dr. Steven Kelder, developed curricula specific to e-cigarettes, and presented at community events at libraries and school centers to educate parents and the boarder community about e-cigarettes. The district has mobilized settlement funds to educate students on the effects of using vapes and other tobacco products, to provide an education course to students in lieu of suspension for first and second tobacco offenses, and to provide an education course for teacher and non-instructional personnel to expand their understanding of vaping, tobacco, and other related products' effects on students.

Prevention education is also a core focus. Through the District's required curriculum, students receive age-appropriate instruction on substance use, addiction, brain development, and the skills needed to make healthy decisions. To reinforce these lessons, we partner with a wide range of community organizations that provide guest speakers and assemblies that highlight the real-world risks of vaping, nicotine addiction, and other substances. One such organization is Life Skills in Schools, which has provided vaping, marijuana, and alcohol prevention education to nearly 80,000 PBCS students during the 2024-25 school year. In addition, PBCS is currently piloting vape detectors in two middle and two high schools, a program aimed at reducing on-campus vaping and

improving early identification of concerning behaviors. The District will assess the use of vape detectors throughout the pilot to make informed decisions regarding potential district-wide implementation.

The District also offers an alternative-to-suspension program for students found in possession of vapes or related products. This program emphasizes education, reflection, and support rather than punitive consequences alone, helping students understand the risks associated with vaping while connecting them with resources that promote healthier choices. In addition, the District is developing a plan for students to develop marketing materials for educating other students on the effects of vaping. The campaign will include scholarships as incentives and produced videos will be used district-wide.

Equally important is the District's emphasis on addressing the underlying factors that can lead students toward substance use. The District continues to expand mental health supports, ensuring students have access to school counselors, behavioral health professionals, and trusted adults who can help them navigate stress, anxiety, peer pressures, and other root causes. By combining education, prevention, mental health support, restorative practices, and community partnerships, we are building a coordinated and supportive system that promotes student safety, well-being, and long-term healthy choices.

6. Goddard School District, Kansas

Bellwether Plaintiff USD 265 ("Goddard") has developed trainings for school staff to recognize e-cigarettes and intervene to stop students from using them, created curriculum to educate students and parents about the dangers of youth e-cigarette use, and collaborated with the Kansas State Vaping Task Force. Goddard intends to use the settlement proceeds to continue addressing student vaping and related at-risk behaviors.

Using the settlement funds, Goddard has expanded early childhood programs for students and families and strengthened mental health support services for students. Both areas directly support efforts to mitigate at-risk behaviors. This approach aligns with how the State of Kansas has utilized tobacco settlement funds through the Children's Initiatives Fund, which focuses on early childhood programming and the health and wellness of students. Goddard believes that a robust

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early learning program combined with strong wellness supports at upper grade levels helps prevent students from engaging in destructive habits such as vaping and other forms of substance abuse.

Additionally, Goddard is presenting a pilot program for the Board of Education's consideration that will provide resources to help parents collaborate with the school and support their children when facing mental and physical health concerns, including vaping. Settlement funds will support this new initiative.

Since last year, the district has further expanded its efforts through several new initiatives:

- Additional full-time school district police officer dedicated to building positive relationships with students and parents. This officer has provided presentations to site councils on vaping and its impact on students and has contributed to expanded prevention education.
- **Reinstatement of the DARE program**, supported by this officer and the district's other school resource officers. Goddard successfully hosted its first DARE Summer Camp this past summer, with strong participation and positive outcomes.
- Launch of ParentGuidance.org, providing families with tools and support to navigate parenting challenges, including vaping. The district has seen a significant increase in parent engagement with this resource over the past year.
- Expansion of early learning education, supported by an Executive Director of Early
 Learning who oversees programming designed to broaden opportunities for families and
 strengthen early childhood development across the community.

Together, these initiatives further demonstrate Goddard's commitment to using settlement funds responsibly and strategically to support prevention, education, wellness, and long-term student success.

B. Other Exemplar Government Entity Plaintiffs

1. Los Angeles Unified School District, California

Los Angeles Unified School District ("LAUSD") has been working to address the problem of youth vaping and associated risky behaviors. For example, LAUSD has purchased and installed vape detectors for middle schools. The District is piloting these detectors in select middle schools,

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addressing troubleshooting issues as they arise, and gathering data to expand the program if they are effective. The District then plans to use the data gathered from middle schools to implement learnings in high schools, as appropriate. It is also currently recruiting high schools to pilot vaping detection devices.

The District also is using funding to support its Beyond the Bell Tobacco-Use Prevention Education (TUPE) program, designed to prevent youth tobacco use by providing students with the knowledge and skills that enable them to be tobacco-free.² This program:

- Educates students about the dangers of tobacco use, empowering them to make informed decisions for their health;
- Integrates tobacco and cannabis prevention education with socio-emotional learning curriculum, teaching decision-making and peer resistance skills.
- Ensures all students have access to resources and support for their well-being, fostering an inclusive environment;
- Contributes to students' long-term health by preventing tobacco and cannabis use and its associated health risks;
- Empowers students to advocate for their health and well-being, promoting a sense of agency;
- Involves teachers, parents, and the community in tobacco prevention efforts and fosters a culture of wellness.
- Engages youth in leadership roles through AFHC Club and Peer Educators, boosting confidence and self-esteem;
- Promotes teamwork and cooperation among peers through group activities and discussions; and
- Empowers youth to make positive changes in their communities, fostering a sense of agency and civic engagement;

As part of the TUPE work, LAUSD organizes groups of students, including TUPE Peer Educators and Advocates for Health Choices (AFHC), who plan and conduct campus-wide

² https://btb.lausd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=4356935&type=d&pREC_ID=2462643.

campaign events to educate their peers and the school community on the health risks associated with smoking and vaping tobacco and cannabis. TUPE Peer Educators are students in grades 6 - 12 receive training as tobacco prevention peer educators. These students develop and facilitate presentations for their peers at their school sites. AFHC club members in grades 6 - 12 organize and conduct campaign events to spread information about the dangers of smoking and vaping and adopting healthy alternatives to smoking and vaping. The events take place throughout the year and usually align with a national event to reduce youth use of tobacco. The following are the campaign events that take place throughout the year:

- Red Ribbon Week (October)
- The Great American Smokeout/Escape the Vape (November)
- Save a Sweetheart/Healthy Hearts (February)
- Take Down Tobacco/Kick Butt's Day (March)
- Earth Day (April)
- World No Tobacco Day (May)

During the summer of 2025, LAUSD has hosted multiple student focus groups on substance abuse, including vaping. The district is currently working on focus groups with teachers and recruiting of the human centered design workshops in the health education classroom to begin the peer created interventions. The District is excited for this part to begin this Spring semester.

LAUSD has moved forward with purchasing the elementary one-to-one curriculum model, and is currently working on precuring training for middle school as well. The publisher of the curriculum has made final updates of the curriculum (and coaching model) and are now updating the training for LAUSD specifically.

Finally, LAUSD has been working on putting the pieces together for the Web portals, including a district Website portal for resources and a age-restricted student only Project U LA for teens. LAUSD spends significant time doing research on articles and videos for the repository of resources, and worked with students on this portion to find the most appropriate for the District's students. LAUSD has also been working to provide a more comprehensive list of campaign items for schools to select from. Across the board, LAUSD has been setting up school line items for

purchasing the supplemental campaign resources.

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2. Hillsborough County Public Schools, Florida

Hillsborough County Public Schools ("HCPS") has been using its settlement funding to work to reducing and address vaping and tobacco use in the District. In Spring 2025, HCPS piloted vape detection equipment at four high schools using three vendors. This work was led by HCPS high school regional superintendents, who partnered closely with school leaders to monitor implementation, review data, and gather feedback. Based on the results of the pilot, with proceeds from the vaping litigation settlement, HCPS will move forward the selected vendor at scale for all sites by Fall 2026. The vape detection system provides:

- Reliable detection of vaping and related air quality concerns in restrooms and other highrisk areas
- Immediate alerts to administrators so they can intervene and support students in real time
- Robust data reporting that helps identify trends and high-need locations
- A consistent platform that can be implemented districtwide for training, monitoring, and support

Next steps include finalizing site implementation schedules, coordinating installation, and providing training for school-based staff.

3. Miami-Dade School District, Florida

Miami-Dade School District, in Miami-Dade County, Florida, has applied the Juul settlement proceeds to install vaping monitoring equipment in over 500 schools throughout the district and for related operational costs. Additionally, Miami-Dade is devoting resources from the Juul settlement proceeds to provide mental health counseling to students throughout the district, including to support students with substance use such as vaping.

4. Blue Valley School District, Kansas

Blue Valley School District in Kansa has applied the Juul settlement proceeds to train 10 Tobacco Treatment Specialist and 3 STaRT Certified (Support for Tobacco Recovery). As part of this protocol established by the Tobacco Treatment Specialists, the District is now using the Standford Toolbox, recommended by expert Bonnie Halpern-Felsher, as a reduction for suspension

prevention education tool. They have created a My Quit Plan Packet for principals to share with students and families that have a vaping infraction. The District has also used the funds to provide a voucher for a free drug and alcohol screening for parents of students who have a vaping infraction.

In addition, the District has hosted an Influence Initiative where it collaborated with high school students across the district to lead drug and alcohol prevention efforts across the district. These high school students, supported by adults on the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Task Force committee, will lead a social media campaign and also plan programming for the District's community event. The District has also created prevention education posters for schools to use with other prevention education tools in their campuses.

5. Shawnee Mission School District, Kansas

The Chief of Student and Family Services and the Coordinator of Health Services for Shawnee Mission School District in Kansas have advised plaintiffs' counsel that it has utilized the Juul settlement funds to hire a Student Wellness Specialist. She has increased connections with secondary school administrators, school resource officers, counselors, social workers, teachers, students, and families on vape/tobacco education initiatives.

In addition, at least one staff member in every secondary school has been trained to provide vaping information and cessation support to interested students and their families. Recognizing that the vape/tobacco use is typically linked to needs for mental health support, the District has also provided Youth Mental Health First Aid training to additional adults in schools. Moreover, presentations are being made to students and staff on vaping education and awareness, and information booths are set up at secondary school cafeterias during lunch and at parent engagement events. Finally, the District has developed an Alternatives to Suspension Course, which is being used by students found with vape/tobacco as well as by students expressing interest in help to quit.

6. The School District of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The School District of Philadelphia ("SDP") has been working to promote tobacco and vape free schools and using its settlement funds to address student tobacco/vaping education and related student health issues. SDP has collaborated with the Philadelphia Department of Health to create resources and provide guidance to students and families. SDP is using a tiered approach to vaping

prevention, connecting substance abuse and addiction programs with student support programs, such as Social Emotional Learning, Student Assistance Program, and Multi-Tiered Support Systems. SDP is working with substance abuse programs in the community and other prevention programs to provide services to students and families. This year, SDP also updated Board Policy 222: Promoting Tobacco and Vape Free Schools.

This fall, SDP provided training to school counselors and climate staff on vaping prevention. SDP is using the Stanford Toolkit, recommended by MDL expert Dr. Halpern-Felsher, to provide an education course to students in lieu of suspension for violating SDP's vaping policy. SDP is educating students on the effects of using vapes, by, for example, distributing vaping prevention educational posters to every school and providing vaping prevention materials on its website. SDP has formed a Vaping Prevention Task Force, a partnership between the Office of Prevention & Intervention, Student Rights and Responsibilities, Family and Community Engagement, Student Health Services, and School Climate and Culture.

C. Government Entities Are Also Benefiting From the Growing Body of Research and Resources to Address the Youth E-Cigarette Crisis

MDL leadership also previously organized multiple educational presentations for participating government entities to hear from leading public health organizations and researchers and learn about resources available to combat youth vaping and educate students. Cumulatively, hundreds of representatives from settling government entities have attended these webinars and received expert information and advice about these resources.

The Truth Initiative[®], which began in 1998 with the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, (the foundation for the American Legacy Foundation, later renamed Truth Initiative) has developed curricula and research that can be rapidly adopted by the government entity plaintiffs. This organization has available resources for an anti-vaping curriculum including an online course about the dangers of using e-cigarettes, that was created by Truth Initiative[®] and Kaiser Permanente and in collaboration with the American Heart Association. This course has been found to significantly increase e-cigarette knowledge among middle and high school participants, according to a study

published in *Health Promotion Practice*.³ Similarly, a recent publication in the British Medical Journal⁴ found that "weekly campaign awareness demonstrate that exposure to the truth anti-ecigarette campaign is associated with significantly lower odds of intentions to use and current use of e-cigarette among YYA [youth and young adults].";

<u>CATCH My Breath</u>: CATCH My Breath is e-cigarette focused, is developmentally appropriate for elementary, middle, and high school students and has empirical findings of behavior change effectiveness in peer reviewed literature.⁵ The program has been recommended by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA⁶) and Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA⁷), two large national organizations devoted to reducing youth and young adult substance use in the U.S. (including tobacco and e-cigarettes).; and

Stanford REACH Lab: Stanford REACH Lab offers evidence-based curriculums and resources to prevent and reduce use of all tobacco/e-cigarette/nicotine products, all cannabis products, and all other drugs. These curriculums have been used by schools across the US and in many countries across the globe, and are developed to map onto national health education standards. Each interactive lesson includes teacher talking points (e.g., a script), activities, videos, and more. In particular, the Tobacco Prevention Toolkit is a free online and comprehensive resource on tobacco education, parent education and tobacco policies, including educational presentations

³ Vaping curriculum by truth increases student knowledge about e-cigarettes, Truth Initiative (Aug. 24, 2023), https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/tobacco-prevention-efforts/vaping-curriculum-truth-increases-student-knowledge.

⁴ Hair EC, et al., *Reducing e-cigarette use among youth and young adults: evidence of the truth campaign's impact*, Tobacco Control, British Medical Journal (Aug. 8, 2023), https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/early/2023/08/tc-2023-057992.

⁵ Kelder, S.H. et al. *Dissemination of CATCH My Breath, a middle school E-Cigarette prevention program.* Addictive Behav., vol. 113 (2021): 106698.

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33130463/; Kelder, S.H. et al. *A Middle School Program to Prevent E-Cigarette Use: A Pilot Study of "CATCH My Breath"*. Pub. Health Rep., vol. 135,2 (2020): 220-229.

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7036618/pdf/10.1177_0033354919900887.pdf.

⁶ SAMHSA report lists CATCH My Breath as only school-level youth vaping prevention program, CATCH Global Found. (May 27, 2021), https://catch.org/samhsa-recommends-catch-my-breath/.

⁷ Coalitions in Action—Wolcott Citizens Against Substance Abuse's "Catch My Breath"

Initiative, CADCA, https://www.cadca.org/resources/coalitions-action-wolcott-citizens-against-substance-abuses-catch-my-breath-initiative.

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⁸Gaiha, S.M. et al., *School-based e-cigarette education in Alabama: impact on knowledge of e-cigarettes, perceptions and intent to try*, Nat'l Ctr. For Biotechnology Info (2021), https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32890911/.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE I hereby certify that on December 17, 2025, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will automatically send notification of the filing to all counsel of record. By: /s/ Dean Kawamoto Dean Kawamoto